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incinnati Recreation Commissio

## letter from the director

JAMES R. GARGES

Dear Members of City Council,

Recreation Commission Members and Citizens:

2002 was a year of great accomplishments and many challenges. The challenges have been mostly budgetary in nature. The accomplishments have been the result of many dedicated people working together to reach a common goal. That goal is to insure that Recreation does indeed

#### "Inspire Today. Strengthen Tomorrow".

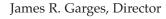
Guard Start, Kroger Family Fun Days and the Playground Mentoring Program returned for another tremendously successful summer. The Youth Empowerment program helped 40 area teens learn critical job-seeking skills while the Green Team Program put 94 teens to work around the city sprucing up our centers, playgrounds and ball fields. The Pride in Our Playgrounds Initiative continued in full force. Playgrounds were built in Bond Hill, Avondale, Fairview Park, Carmalt Park in Mt. Auburn and College Hill – all with volunteers. Of course we can't forget the beautiful "Freedom Playground" that was built in Roselawn by thousands of volunteers in just 5 days.

2002 also witnessed the opening of two beautiful and long awaited recreation centers in Madisonville and College Hill. These centers have already made a positive impact on their communities. The Over The Rhine Center received a much needed face lift and the groundbreaking for the new Otto Armleder Aquatic Facility in Hanna Park provided us with a vision of the future for our aging swimming pools.

We "Inspire Today" – by providing the types of recreational programming that make a difference in the neighborhoods today and by hiring staff who inspire others with their caring, energy and enthusiasm. We "Strengthen Tomorrow" - by planting seeds of responsibility, teamwork and self-confidence in the programming that we provide.

On behalf of the CRC staff, we look forward to "inspiring" and "strengthening" the citizens of Cincinnati for many years to come.

James R. Barges





## letter from the president

DANIEL J. GILDAY

Dear Members of City Council and Citizens:

In 1927 a charter amendment established the Public Recreation Commission's place in city government. In 2002, 75 years later, the Cincinnati Recreation Commission, as we're now called, continues to provide essential quality of life services to the city of Cincinnati. We make a difference in the community and we are there for *all* of the citizens. Young or old. Black or white. Able-bodied or physically or mentally challenged. We are there where it counts. In the neighborhoods. And we've been a great neighbor.

The programs have changed over 75 years. Ukulele Classes have become a thing of the past. Checkers and Marbles Tournaments have given way to Tumbling and Tai Chi. "Play Streets" have become neighborhood playgrounds built by residents and employees of sponsoring corporations. But the focus and the mission remain the same – "to promote, administer and operate programs and facilities that are open to the public on equal terms and to develop happier, healthier and more abundant lives for individuals and communities."

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission celebrated 75 years of commitment in 2002. We've been there for the good times and the bad. Helping our communities go about their daily lives. Improving the quality of life. The reason for CRC's longevity can be traced back to the people who've worked for us over the years. They are a special breed. They are committed to making Cincinnati a better place to live. They are fiercely loyal. They are like diamonds in the rough. They are strong and they are resilient. They are what make the Cincinnati Recreation Commission an integral and viable force in the city of Cincinnati.

Daniel J. Gilday, President



## 75th anniversary

75 YEARS AGO. . .

For a period of years preceding the creation of a Public Recreation Commission in Cincinnati, two public agencies (the Board of Education and the Board of Park Commissioners) and one private agency (Community Service) had been responsible for the conduct, administration and financing of the public recreational activities of the City of Cincinnati and the Cincinnati School District. When the Park Board's budget for recreational activities was reduced to practically zero, members of the Community Service Executive Board deemed that it would be in the best interests of the City to create a separate public service board, whose sole and specific duty would be to promote, administer and operate an all-year city wide recreational program.

On May 26, 1926, Council unanimously passed an ordinance creating a Public Recreation Commission. On July 8, 1926, the five citizens who had consented to serve on the Commission were appointed by the Mayor. At that meeting the Director of Recreation was appointed to serve without compensation until January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1927.

During the Public Recreation Commission's first year of operation, 3,888 people participated in Community Ukulele Classes. Harmonica Classes weren't quite as popular, with only 685 people attending. 345 "Community Sings" were held around the City with a total attendance of 101,455! The City-Wide Marble Tournament hosted 112 Elementary Schools and an amazing 5,650 participants!

In 1927, "playstreets" were the precursor to "playgrounds". There were only 26 playgrounds in the City, so for fifty-five evenings during the summer between the hours of 6:30 pm and dark – Cook St., Boone St., Republic St., Clay St., Richmond St., Clinton St., Carlisle St., Clark St., Barr St., and Cutter St., became the official play areas for Cincinnati's children.

Final recommendations from the 1927 Public Recreation Commission's Annual Report:

"It is the hope of the Public Recreation Commission that close association will always be maintained between the commission and the citizenship groups representing community recreational interests. It is also the belief of the Public Recreation Commission that the best recreational interests of the city will be served only as these volunteer community groups consider it part of their community responsibility to help make their respective communities conscious of the value of Public Recreation as a character and health builder. To work with the Public Recreation Commission to the end that within another decade, a public opinion may have been created that considers Public Recreation as a social instrument on a parity with Public Education, Public Health and Public Safety, and that through adequate capital and maintenance expenditures, this human arm of our Municipal Government may help to develop a happier, healthier and more abundant life for the individual and the Community."

The more things change...the more they stay the same!



1927 - 2002

## recreation centers

#### NEW AT COLLEGE HILL AND MADISONVILLE

During one weekend in July, the Cincinnati Recreation Commission opened two brand new centers. Mayor Charlie Luken presided over the dedications and joined thousands of residents as they toured the new recreation centers in Madisonville and College Hill. Residents from these communities worked with CRC staff for many years to establish the programming and facility needs for these neighborhoods. Each center is unique and offers the best possible recreation services for each community.

Although there had been a senior center in the Madisonville area for years, other recreation programs were not available to the community. The new Madisonville Recreation Center continues to offer programs for older adults but now includes a full-size gym for athletic leagues, a dance room for karate, yoga and ballet, a game room, computer lab and teen lounge.

There has never been a recreation center in College Hill. This long awaited, community driven center, offers two full basketball courts, a suspended walking and running track, and a state-of-the-art fitness center.

Both centers have already had a positive impact in their communities. Membership at both centers is well over 1,000 people and continues to climb. Each of the center's staff is actively involved with the community councils to ensure that the recreational needs of the community are consistently being met.

#### OUR OTHER RECREATION CENTERS

Quality programming at our recreation centers continues to be the focal point for the Recreation Department. Before and after school programs, summer day camps, sports, arts and crafts and many other innovative activities are the corner stone on which Recreation builds a better quality of life in the neighborhoods. Each program has been customized to fit the needs of the community and they remain ever changing as circumstances warrant. Constant communication with local neighborhood councils guarantees that recreation will remain a vital part of each community for years to come.

College Hill's opening day.



Madisonville's opening day.



## pride in our playgrounds

#### **PLAYGROUNDS**

The Pride In Our Playgrounds Initiative was created to put CRC back in the playground business. There are two components of this program. One is to replace and repair those playgrounds around the city that have fallen into decay. Corporations and churches have been encouraged to "adopt" a playground. Employees and church members were asked to help restore their neighborhood playgrounds to a source of pride. Employees from Target Stores, Coca Cola Bottling Company, Children's Hospital, Kroger Company and Home Depot all participated in the program. The local community also played a pivotal role in returning their playgrounds to a fun and safe environment for children to play. In 2002, CRC made great progress towards completing work on its list of Top 40 Playgrounds that were in need of replacement or repair. The Freedom Playground was built as a 1,000 Hands Project in Roselawn in 2002. Over 2,500 volunteers built the 14,500 sq. ft. playground in just 5 days. Smaller composite structures were built in Avondale, North Fairmount, Bond Hill, Mt. Auburn, College Hill and Over-the-Rhine with a total of 215 volunteers.

The other component of the Pride In Our Playgrounds Initiative is to ensure that playgrounds continue to be a place where the kids in the neighborhood want to come and play. To accomplish this goal, the Playground Mentoring program was created. For 10 weeks during the summer, Playground Mentors staff 12 separate playgrounds in the city from 12:00 noon – 4:00 pm each weekday afternoon. They organize games, do arts and crafts and provide a place for neighborhood kids to go in the afternoon and have some fun. The Playground Mentoring Program nearly tripled its participation in 2002 with 13,574 kids taking advantage of planned activities.

Playground build.







Crafty JUICE kids.











SCUBA

# aquatic partnerships

#### **GUARD START**

Guard Start is a six week program coordinated with the Cincinnati Chapter of the Red Cross. The class for 2002 included 242 participants, aged 11–14, from 22 pools. These "junior lifeguards" earned points for timeliness, effort and attitude. They could also earn a swimsuit/trunks, shirt and goggles as extra incentives. At the end of the program, these junior lifeguards were paid \$.50 cents per point earned during the six weeks. The season concluded with a party at Ryan pool.

#### KROGER FAMILY FUN DAYS

Kroger Family Fun Days were created in 2001 as a way to enhance usage of CRC's swimming pools and to promote community social involvement in a positive way. This successful program continued in 2002 with The Kroger Co. sponsoring loads of food, fun, and music for selected CRC pools. Kroger donated \$28,154 for a DJ and pool toys while also catering each event with free lunches for all in attendance.

The turnout during 2002 was even larger than 2001, with many people not only attending the party in their own neighborhoods, but crossing into other communities as well. 22 pools and 7,220 people were involved with Kroger Family Fun Days in 2002.

CRC's Scuba program is divided into two separate programs. Discover Scuba is a one-time scuba experience where anyone age 12 and above has an opportunity to spend 15 minutes in a pool, outfitted in scuba gear, with an instructor who demonstrates how to use the equipment. Approximately 300 teens participated in Discover Scuba during 2002 at 6 outdoor and 2 indoor pools. The PADI certification class is a 10 week class that partners teens with local police officers and teaches them both how to scuba dive. This learning experience is beneficial to both the teens and the officers as it creates a bond of friendship between them. At the end of the 10 week session, they make a trip to Florida for their final certification dive. All Scuba programs are sponsored through Scuba Unlimited and through donations. This program has been geared towards at risk teens in an effort to keep them off the street. It has been in existence since 1997 and will continue in 2003.

Guard Start kids practicing CPR.













Kids in the pool at Kroger Family Fun Days.

A kid in SCUBA gear gets ready to test out the water.

## youth city involvement

#### RECREATION EMPLOYMENT CORPS

The REC provided entry-level positions for teens at specified centers to introduce them to the field of recreation. As part of the Employment and Empowerment campaign, each intern had a mentor at the recreation center who helped to guide them. \$86,967 was donated by the Youth Employment Initiative YYC to provide this opportunity. A ceremony was held in City Council Chambers at the end of the summer to congratulate the interns with a certificate of achievement. The program was expanded in 2002 to address critical employability issues with youth in our community.

#### GREEN TEAM

The Green Team was introduced to Cincinnati in 2002 as a way to help youth ages 15 to 24 become employed and learn a multitude of landscaping skills. The 10 week Summer Outdoor Maintenance Internship Program was extremely successful. The Youth Employment Initiative donated \$163,451 and \$80,000 was taken from the general fund budget to make this program a success. The Green Team worked with mentors who taught them how to complete projects on time and learn a little about responsibility along the way.

Over 80 summer employment positions were filled. The Green Team worked on a major cleanup at Schiller and Hughes, did basic landscaping maintenance at 40 Community Centers and Recreation Sites, and provided daily cleanup of over 30 downtown parks and facilities.

The REC awards banquet





Participants with their REC certificates



The Green Team working hard.



# youth outdoor participation activities

#### ADVENTURE OUTPOST

A total of 27 camping sessions - 587 youth, ages 11 to 15, attended Adventure Outpost during 36 days last summer. Adventure Outpost is a youth camping partnership between the Hamilton County Park District and the Cincinnati Recreation Commission. It provides camping experiences that have a positive influence on the youth of Cincinnati. This year, Adventure Outpost also became a favorite spot for seniors with 4 groups totaling 54 participants.

#### RIVERTREK

For the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, 28 fortunate teens from diverse backgrounds, ages 13 to 17, were selected to join RiverTrek. RiverTrek is an exploration of natural beauty and eco-science while traveling the length of the Little Miami River in canoes. Peer leaders, who were selected from previous RiverTrek adventures, helped guide and nurture new members through the journey and allowed them to give back to the program while continuing their own personal growth. The journey included three days of travel by canoe and ended at the American Legion Hall in Milford Ohio where family and friends greeted them. Along the way, RiverTrekkers camped, swam, participated in team building activities, played and explored this historic river. RiverTrek 2002 was funded in part by the Charles H. Dater Foundation, Inc. (donated \$5,031) and Morgan's Canoe and Outdoor Centers.

#### NFL FLAG FOOTBALL

The NRPA donated \$2500 towards equipment and Anthony Munoz donated 20 footballs to CRC's NFL Flag Football program. The 2002 fall league had 500 kids from 33 community centers, males and females, ranging in age from 6 to 14.

\$1500 in scholarships were awarded to 15 kids from 4-5 centers to attend the Anthony Munoz "Youth Football Camp" in late June. These boys, entering grades 3 through 8, were given a full scholarship from the Anthony Munoz Foundation, to attend the series for four days. This was a non-contact camp covering the fundamentals of both football and life after the game. Campers were provided with t-shirts, individual instruction, guest speakers, 7-on-7 competitions, running and tackling techniques and an evaluation of skills. The camp was held at Sycamore High School.

Adventure Outpost activities.





RiverTrekkers canoe down the river.











NFL Flag All-Stars play at halftime of the Bengals game.

# distinctive community achievements

#### **SENIORS**

During 2002, 2,609 Seniors enjoyed a variety of activities at the various recreation centers. Attendance at Senior Centers totaled 144,689. The Senior Hall of fame welcomed 39 new inductees with a total participation of 757 for all regions. The Southwest Senior Olympics was again a complete success with 169 qualifying to participate in the National Senior Games. New program additions for 2002 were chair volleyball, 50+ basketball league and the Turkey Classic Seniors Volleyball Tournament.

#### THERAPEUTIC RECREATION

The Adapted Sports Festival (formerly Cincinnati Wheelchair Games) was a three-part series of events for individuals with cognitive and/or physical disabilities. The Tennis Camp, held at the Queen City Racquet & Fitness Club, is a nationally recognized camp that offers skill development and instruction to all athletes. The Water Ski Clinic allowed children, teens and adults to experience the thrill of water skiing, including basic or intermediate instruction, water safety tips and free Jet Ski rides. The Track and Field events, held on May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, had over 60 athletes participating. These events included those with cognitive disabilities for the first time.

Therapeutic Recreation served over 350 citizens with disabilities for participation in sports, fitness and educational programs. The socials, dances, outings, art and computer classes included more than 500 participants. Instructional swim programs provided services for over 180 individuals and another 75 individuals enjoyed swim lessons as part of adult day camps.

#### **VOLUNTEERS**

All of the community's residents and businesses benefit from the contributions made by the Cincinnati's Volunteer Partners. 350 volunteers provided a total of 30,830 hours of service at community and Senior centers at a value of \$184,980. An additional 2,780 volunteers helped with the various playground builds. Their valuable services to CRC included: program aides, computer tutors, mailings, dance instructors, scorekeepers, sewing instructors, gift shop sales, coaches, gardeners, receptionists and special events.

Senior Olympics.



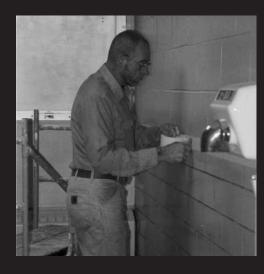








Volunteers.



## around downtown

#### WATERFRONT

Cincinnati's waterfront continued to be the "hot" spot for fun activities in 2002. With a total attendance of approximately 703,570 people, the waterfront hosted 39 separate events including the Race for the Cure, March of Dimes Walk America, Flying Pig Marathon, Blues Fest, Chili Fest, Black Family Reunion, Parties at the Point, Parties in the Park, Riverfest, Kids' Fest, All-American Birthday Party and the Mobile Skatepark Series. The Mobile Skatepark Series was the first of its kind in Cincinnati. Approximately 80 professional athletes competed at the event, which generated a minimum of eight hours of national television exposure for Cincinnati and Sawyer Point. The Mobile Skatepark Series brought tens of thousands of spectators to Sawyer Point over this nine-day period.

#### FOUNTAIN SQUARE

For the first time in 2002, CRC coordinated "Light Up The Square – The Mayor's Holiday Lighting Celebration" for the City of Cincinnati. Local television covered the event with a live half-hour "special" originating from the square. The main event was made possible through generous donations from Fifth Third Bank and the Greater Cincinnati Chapter of the Jaycees. Thousands of people converged on the square to listen to music, ice skate and witness the illumination of thousands of lights.

The Fountain Square Ice Rink was open for 78 days. Total attendance for the season was 11,770.

#### NATIONAL STEAMBOAT MONUMENT

Rising above the concrete slopes of Cincinnati's Public Landing, the \$2.8 million National Steamboat Monument was dedicated in November of 2002. The monument is actually a three-story, 60-ton, red replica paddle wheel positioned about 40 feet off the ground, above a series of 24 metal smokestacks in what is know as the Dan and Susan Pfau Whistle Grove. The idea behind the stacks is to showcase the use of steam in the early days of riverboat travel and to demonstrate of the importance that riverboats played in the early history of Cincinnati.

Kids skating at Fountain Square ice rink.



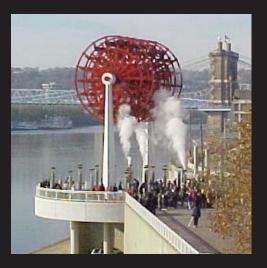


Carolers at "Light up the Square"





National Steamboat Monument Dedication.



## departmental leadership

#### CINCINNATI RECREATION COMMISSION FOUNDATION

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which funds needed Cincinnati Recreation Commission programs which might otherwise go unfunded because of the lack of City of Cincinnati revenues. The Foundation provided funds for a variety of projects in 2002, including:

- o Employment/training programs for teens and scholarships for both after school and summer day camp programs.
- o Adapted sports for children with disabilities, playgrounds, swimming lessons, Sunday Pool Days, NFL Flag Youth Football, Fore Youth Golf and Hoopsfest.
- o Electric fans for heat alert situations, senior hearing projects, and improvements to senior centers.

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission Foundation has donated nearly a million dollars so far to CRC programs, but the Foundation needs more money to keep such programs going. In 2002, the Foundation received \$604,534 including \$1,342 in interest. You can help by becoming a contributor to the Cincinnati Recreation Commission Foundation. A contribution of \$25, \$100, \$1,000, or any amount which works best for you, will be put to good use. Please call 352-4005 for more information, or make checks payable to and mail to "CRC Foundation" - 805 Central Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

#### EMPLOYEE COUNCIL

The purpose of the employee council was to coordinate employee functions such as the summer picnic, holiday events, staff recognition (Mug Awards), staff retirement recognition and helping staff and families in a time of need.

CRC's Employee council coordinated an All-staff picnic in 2002 in place of a traditional employee banquet. The picnic, held at Lunken Playfield in September, presented an opportunity for CRC staff to do what they do best - play outside in the heat! Despite the hot temperatures, everyone had a wonderful time socializing, playing games and eating lots of scrumptious food.

#### NEW YOUTH COMMISSIONERS

Two youths were selected to each serve a one-year term acting as liaisons between the Cincinnati Recreation Commission and the youth of the city. The purpose of this addition was to give public voice to concerns, needs and issues affecting today's youth. Ms. Soroya Edwards is a junior at Walnut Hills High School and has made the 2002 National Honor Roll Award and the 2002 Who's Who among American High School Students. She also served on the Youth Advisory Committee of the S.C.O.P.E. Police Program during the summer of 2000. Bryan Lee is a sophomore in the Cincinnati Academy of Math and Science (CAMAS) at Hughes Center. He is looking forward to serving on the Commission and "giving our city youth a voice" on the issues, needs and concerns facing our young people today. The Cincinnati Recreation Commission recognizes the importance of fostering youth involvement in leadership roles within the community.

CRC Foundation.





CRC Employee picnic.









Soroya Edwa



Bryan Lee

New Youth Commissioners, Bryan and Soroya, with Dan Gilday and Becky Smith at their first Commission Meeting.

# a week in the life of...

#### THE CINCINNATI RECREATION COMMISSION

For one week in July 2002, The Cincinnati Recreation Commission recorded the following statistics:

People in Recreation Centers	. 16,284
Participants in Day Camps	7,022
Participants in Senior Programs	
Participants in T.R. Programs	
Free Lunches Served	. 5,081
Participants in Center-Based	
Athletic Programs	1,052
Participants in Social/Ed. Programs	487
Participants in Playground Program	. 1,494
Participants in Arts for All Programs	. 695
Participants in Adventure Outpost	135
Participants on Green Team	. 87
Participants in Rec. Employment Corps.	38
Participants in Open Swims	. 6,557
Participants in Swim Lessons	. 761
Participants in Guard Start Program	245
Participants on Swim Team	. 507
Participants in Baseball/Softball	. 5,840
Adult Athletic Leagues	. 7,564
Adult Tournaments/Events	744
Youth Athletic Leagues	
Youth Tournaments/Events	. 96
Visitors to Airport Playfield	. 9,460
Tennis Players Airport Playfield	
Tennis Players at all other courts	
Golf Rounds Played	
Junior Golf Participants	
Visitors to Sawyer Point	
Volunteer Hours Served	198
CRC Areas Mowed & Maintained	. 120
CRC Ballfields Drug & Lined	
Trash Bags Used	
Incoming Call to the CRC InfoLine	
Seasonal Employees	475

A teen using a Recreation Center's computer.



An engineer working on a site build.



Acathletes practicing their running.



# DIG YOU KNOW... "RC has 90 indoor/outdoor haskethall courts

## financial information

2002

Cincinnati Recreation Commission Statement of Revenues and Expenditures For Year Ended 12/31/02

Revenues	Expenditures
\$ 966,533	\$ 2,383,023
\$ 918,865	\$ 2,458,625
\$ 821,419	\$ 2,755,464
\$ 0	\$ 4,289,510
\$ 6,092,576	\$ 5,963,726
\$ 319,188	\$ 1,258,336
\$ 930,761	\$ 2,112,353
\$ 826,325	\$ 1,178,939
\$ 225,700	\$ 3,024,900
\$11,101,368	\$25,424,875
\$ 855,987	\$ 625,489 \$15,119,038
	\$ 966,533 \$ 918,865 \$ 821,419 \$ 0 \$ 6,092,576 \$ 319,188 \$ 930,761 \$ 826,325 \$ 225,700 \$11,101,368

Note: Expenditures include year-end encumbrances.

## financial information

2001

Cincinnati Recreation Commission Statement of Revenues and Expenditures For Year Ended 12/31/01

	Revenues	Expenditures
Region One	\$ 800,110	\$ 3,168,027
Region Two	\$ 566,093	\$ 2,420,193
Region Three	\$ 566,247	\$ 2,663,866
Region Four	\$ 594,195	\$ 2,445,323
Golf	\$ 6,449,409	\$ 6,250,706
Seniors/Special Populations	\$ 438,218	\$ 1,380,587
Athletics	\$ 512,142	\$ 974,294
Waterfront	\$ 1,005,955	\$ 1,488,886
Administration	\$ 92,667	\$ 4,739,669
Total	\$11,025,036	\$25,531,552
Donations (Included Above)	\$ 404,983	
Capital Expenditures		\$19,569,686

Note: Expenditures include year-end encumbrances.





805 Central Avenue • Suite 800 • Cincinnati, Ohio • 45202 CRC InfoLine (513) 352.4000 www.cincyrec.org

#### **Commission Members:**

Daniel J. Gilday, President
Denise M. Driehaus, Vice President
Roscoe A. Fultz
Rev. Kazava Smith
Sally Warner
Bryan Lee
Soroya Edwards

#### **Foundation Members:**

James Keys, President Frank Dawson, Treasurer Robert Horine, Secretary Stacey Barnes Brenda Elmore

### **City Council:**

Mayor, Charlie Luken City Manager, Valerie Lemmie

James Tarbell
David Crowley
Minette Cooper
Chris Monzel
Paul Booth
Pat DeWine
David Pepper
John Cranley
Alicia Reece